

Appl. No. 10/616,599 of Hnat et al.
Atty. Dkt. No. 106684.000001

IN THE CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

Claim 1. (original): A system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element comprising:

a sensor for measuring strain in said element producing an electrical signal representative thereof;

a telemetry circuit electrically coupled to said sensor for encoding and transmitting the signal representative of strain; and

a reader module remotely located from said sensor and said telemetry circuit for receiving the signal representative of strain.

Claim 2. (original): A system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 further comprising;

a housing for encapsulating said sensor and said telemetry circuit.

Claim 3. (original): A system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 2 wherein said housing is comprised of bio-compatible material capable of implantation in a living organism.

Claim 4. (original): A system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a capacitive sensor.

Claim 5. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a cantilever beam type capacitive sensor.

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Claim 6. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a surface acoustic wave sensor.

Claim 7. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a miniaturized strain gauge.

Claim 8. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 3 wherein said housing is substantially annular for placement around an orthopedic implant rod.

Claim 9. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reader module further comprises a concomitant removable memory card for storing sensor data.

Claim 10. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element as claimed in claim 9 wherein said reader module is battery powered.

Claim 11. (original): A system for measuring and remotely monitoring strain in an element comprising:

a sensor for measuring static and dynamic strain in said element producing an electrical signal representative thereof;

a telemetry circuit electrically coupled to said sensor for encoding and transmitting the signal representative of strain;

a reader module remotely located from said sensor and said telemetry circuit for receiving the signal representative of strain and for transmitting power to said telemetry circuit; and

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a control module in communication with said reader module for storing
and processing the signal representative of strain.

Claim 12. (original): The systems for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 11 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a
capacitance sensor.

Claim 13. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 11 wherein said sensor for measuring strain is a
cantilever beam type capacitive sensor.

Claim 14. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 11 further comprising:

a bio-compatible housing for encapsulating said sensor and said telemetry circuit.

Claim 15. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 14 wherein said housing is substantially annular
for placement around an orthopedic implant rod.

Claim 16. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 14 wherein said sensor is secured to said housing
and wherein the strain in said element is transmitted to said sensor through said housing.

Claim 17. (original): The system for measuring and remotely monitoring
strain in an element as claimed in claim 15 wherein said sensor is secured to said housing
and wherein the strain in said element is transmitted to said sensor through said housing.